

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9068

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: GROUP OF EXPERTS ON DRAFT CONVENTION ON TERRITORIAL
ASYLUM

REF: STATE 026350

1. US CANDIDACY FOR SUBJECT GROUP WAS ANNOUNCED AT MEETING OF
WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER REGIONAL GROUP (WEOS) IN JANUARY.

2. 27 STATES MEMBERS COMPOSING EXPERT GROUP ARE TO BE DIVIDED
AMONG REGIONS AS FOLLOWS: NAMES OF COUNTRIES IN PARENTHESES IN-
DICATE THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED BY THEIR REGIONAL GROUPS
SO FAR.

AFRICANS--6 (KENYA, SUDAN, ZAIRE; THREE VACANCIES)

ASIANS--5 (BANGLADESH, INDIA, INDONESIA; TWO VACANCIES)

EASTERN EUROPEANS--3 (USSR, YUGOSLAVIA; ONE VACANCY

LATIN AMERICANS--5 (ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, COASTA RICA, MEXICO,
AND URUGUAY)

WEOS--8 (AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, FRANCE, ITALY, NETHER-
LANDS, SWEDEN, UK AND US).

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AS CAN BE SEEN FROM ABOVE, WHILE SOME REGIONAL GROUPS HAVE NOT FILLED THEIR QUOTAS YET, THERE ARE NINE CANDIDATES FOR EIGHT WEO POSITIONS, INCLUDING ALL THREE PERMANENT SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, NOT AN UNFAMILIAR SITUATION FOR WEOS. ORIGINAL DISTRIBUTION CALLED FOR SEVEN WEO SEATS AND SEVEN AFRICAN SEATS BUT AFRICAN GROUP GAVE UP ONE TO WEOS IN JANUARY. THEREFORE, APPEARS UNLIKELY WEOS CAN OBTAIN ANOTHER SEAT FROM AFRICANS.

3. BECAUSE OF US PRESTIGE IN GENERAL AND SPECIFICALLY OUR WELL-KNOWN LEADERSHIP IN FIELD OF REFUGEE AND MIGRATION AFFAIRS, SEEMS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT US WOULD NOT RECEIVE ONE OF EIGHT SEATS WHEN FINAL DETERMINATION IS MADE. YESTERDAY, FEB 5, UK DEL SUGGESTED TO SECRETARIAT AND TO LIAISON OFFICER OF HCR THAT REGIONAL GROUPS BE GIVEN DEADLINE BY WHICH TO SUBMIT CANDIDATES AFTER WHICH ALL CANDIDATES UP TO 27 WOULD BE ACCEPTED AND NO MORE. THUS, NINTH WEO COULD TAKE ANY UNFILLED VACANCY. SECT RECOGNIZES THAT DEADLINE MAY EVENTUALLY BE NECESSARY SINCE WORKING GROUP IS TO MEET BEFORE END OF MAY BUT WISHES TO GIVE REGIONAL GROUP CHAIRMAN MORE TIME. SECT WILL CONTACT CHAIRMAN AGAIN THIS WEEK. MISSION WILL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH SECT AND REPORT DEVELOPMENTS.

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